

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 IO-10 /064 W

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O 021156Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3709

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7972

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR,TH

SUBJ: REDUCTION US FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: A) BANGKOK 7560; B) STATE 99959; C) BANGKOK 7753

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DESIRES REVISION OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
APPROVED REFTEL B AS FOLLOWS:

2. QTE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ROYAL THAI
GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 29,1974,
CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF US MILITARY FORCES, US MILITARY
PERSONNEL IN THAILAND LAST YEAR DECREASED BY 10,000. FOLLOWING
CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS,
A DECISION HAS NOW BEEN REACHED TO FURTHER REDUCE THE US MILITARY
FORCES IN THAILAND. BY ABOUT THE END OF JUNE 1975, THE
CURRENT LEVEL OF 27,000 AUTHORIZED PERSONNLE WILL BE REDUCED BY
7,500. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL DETERMINE THE SPECIFIC
FORCES TO BE DLETED AND THE TIMING OF THEIR DEPARTURE UNQTE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY WANTED TO USE QTE END OF JUNE UNQTE AS
ANNOUNCED TIMING FOR COMPLETION OF REDUCTION. AFTER
SOME DISCUSSION, THAI AGREED TO QTE ABOUT THE END OF JUNE UNQTE.
WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DELETION OF REFERENCE TO MILITARY
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MANPOWER SPACES MAY CREATE UNREALISTIC PUBLIC EXPECTATION

ABOUT ACTUAL PERSONNEL REDUCTION. THEY HAVE DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO GO WITH THE WORDING THEY PREFER. AS THE REFERENCE IS TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL, WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH IT.

4. TO PRESERVE ANNOUNCEMENT AS A JOINT STATEMENT, WE INTEND TO USE SAME WORDING AS THAI UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE.

5. RELEASE TIME HERE REMAINS 0300 GMT MAY 5.

6. FYI. AFTERNOON BANGKOK WORLD CARRIED REUTERS DISPATCH FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING THE US AND THAILAND HAVE AGREED TO THE QTE WITHDRAWAL OF UP TO 9,000 UNQTE US TROOPS QTE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS UNQTE. ONE OFFICIAL, THE ARTICLE REPORTED, SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD CONTAIN QTE A ONE-YEAR TIMETABLE FOR THE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL OF ALL 23,000 AMERICAN SERVICEMEN UNQTE. THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO US OFFICIALS COMMENTS THAT QTE THAI CALLS FOR A TOTAL WITHDRAWAL ARE BELIEVED IN WASHINGTON TO BE INTENDED FOR THAI DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION UNQTE AND THAT QTE IN ITS TALKS WITH THE US, THAILAND HAS NOT DEMANDED A TOTAL US WITHDRAWAL UNQTE. OBVIOUSLY SUCH INACCURATE LEAKED STORIES WILL GENERATE EXAGGERATED EXPECTATION OF MAY 5 ANNOUNCEMENT AS WELL AS ANGRY REACTION TO US OFFICIALS SUGGESTING PUBLICLY THAT RTG TELLING ITS CONSTITUENTS ONE THING, THE US ANOTHER.
MASTERS

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